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Handbook of International Law (Hornbook Series). By George Grafton Wilson. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Company. 1910. pp. xxiii, 623.

The author of this handbook has long been known to students of international law as one of the authors of Wilson and Tucker's *International Law*, a text-book which has gone through several editions. The present volume resembles in general arrangement and style the last edition of Wilson and Tucker, though the introductory matter on the nature and historical development of international law has been largely omitted and other chapters expanded. Wilson's classification and arrangement are clear, logical, and on the whole admirable.

The rapid development of international law since the meeting of the First Hague Conference in 1899 has rendered large parts of existing text-books obsolete. The present volume embodies fully the results of recent conventional changes and is in all respects fully abreast of the times. It contains copious extracts from the Hague Conventions of 1907, the Declaration of London of 1909, and other recent international agreements, the full texts of which are given in the appendices. The reader may be inclined at first sight to criticise the adoption in the text of so many provisions from recent conventions, the status of which is still a matter of uncertainty, but a closer examination will show that Professor Wilson has put in the text only those provisions on which a large number of Powers are agreed. Still the status of the conventions given in the appendices is nowhere defined and the student may sometimes question how far some of the provisions quoted in the text are binding. General treaties and conventions constitute at present the most active source of international law, but very few of these international agreements have been signed by all of the Powers. The student therefore is naturally perplexed to know what is and what is not international law. The only light the author throws on this subject is the statement (p. 11) that, "Where a considerable number of states are parties to an agreement, as to the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, signed at The Hague, October 18, 1907, such a convention becomes in effect international law for the signatory states." It must be confessed that this is rather an unsatisfactory basis on which to rest a system of law. And yet the author has discarded almost entirely the ethical and historical bases on which the older treatises were founded and has undertaken to base his work on concrete

statements of existing rules derived largely from recent treaties and conventions. It should be said, however, that these shortcomings are due to the changing condition of international law rather than to the method employed by the author. It may well be doubted whether the time is ripe for a new *treatise*. While the present volume does not rise to the dignity of a treatise in the older sense, it is clear, concise, logical, and accurate. It was designed as a practical text-book for law students, and as such it is excellent. I know of no other book which puts before the student in such concrete form the existing rules of international law.

JOHN HOLLADAY LATANÉ.

The Turco-Italian War and its Problems. With Appendices containing the chief state papers bearing on the subject. By Sir Thomas Barclay. With an additional chapter on Moslem feeling by the Rt. Hon. Aymeer Ali, P. C. London: Constable and Company, Ltd. 1912. pp. xiii, 259.

Italy declared war against Turkey on September 29, 1911, and within two months thereafter this capital little book of Sir Thomas was in press. The preface is dated December, 1911. This means, of course, that the monograph includes nothing of a later date. This is not, however, a drawback, as the purpose of the study is to examine the conduct of Italy in the light of past policy, and of the official correspondence that passed between Italy and Turkey in the month of September. If hitherto unknown documents may put a better face on Italy's action, for the present we are justified in relying upon the Italian ultimatum of September 26, 1911, the Italian declaration of war of the 29th, and the Turkish reply of the 29th to the ultimatum of the 26th, for the official reasons of the war, and in a lesser degree we may take into consideration the semi-official Italian and Turkish statements of their respective cases which appeared in the *London Times* the day following the declaration of war on the 29th. These various documents are printed in chronological order (pp. 109-113) in the first appendix, and place the reader in possession of such facts as the two governments have been minded to lay before the public.

In the ultimatum, Italy asserts that "the state of disorder and neglect in which Tripoli and Cyrenaica are left by Turkey should come to an end, and that these regions should be allowed to enjoy the same progress as that attained by other ports of Northern Africa," that this transformation is, "so far as Italy is concerned, a vital interest of the very first